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MR. JAMES HAINES.

It is a somewhat peculiar fact that young people are not greatly interested in local history and genealogy. It is only when a man or a woman has some years of experience and a fund of recollections that he takes an interest in the history of the community of which he is a part. Very young people are looking forward, and people are themselves surprised when they awaken to the fact that they are no longer among the youth of their locality, and that they are interested in its past events. It is this class of middle aged people who constitute the membership of historical societies, but as this taste once aroused is seldom lost, but grows with age and cultivation, these middle aged people become old people and in time it becomes the duty of historical societies to chronicle the deaths of these workers in the field of history. The Illinois State Historical Society like all such associations has been obliged many times to report deaths among its membership; and it has lost many of its best friends and most devoted workers.

Among the older members none was more youthful at heart, more unselfishly interested in the society than James Haines. He was one of those persons whom years seemed to ripen and mellow, and who became sweeter with the flight of time.

But Uncle James Haines, the pioneer resident of Pe-kin, the grand, good, old man, who was the friend of everybody, is no more. His death occurred at the Proctor home, in Peoria, on September 11, 1909. His death was as his life had been, calm and at peace with all the world, and as the sun sinks behind the horizon and the darkness of night quietly casts its shades before it—his worn, tired body gave up the fight and his soul passed into the presence of his Maker.

James Haines was among the oldest and most honored residents of Tazewell county. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, September 10, 1821, the son of Joseph and Sarah Long Haines. His father fought as a soldier in

the war of 1812 and carried on his trade of blacksmithing until his removal to Illinois in 1827, making the trip hither by team. He located with his family near Pekin, where he erected a little cabin, also a blacksmith shop, built after the same primitive style. He also purchased land, and until the time of his death in 1846, followed the combined occupations of farmer and blacksmith. Sarah Long was the mother's maiden name, she was born in the Quaker city and died on the farm in Tazewell county during the cholera scourge in 1832. Young Haines passed the first five years of his life in Ohio. On coming with the family to this State he saw many Indians from the Winnebago, Pottawattomie and the Sac and Fox tribes. There were about three red men to every white settler in that early day, and the country round about was little more than a wilderness dotted over here and there with rude log cabins. He attended his first school in a rude structure with the most primitive furnishings, but later completed his studies in more modern schools of Pekin. Previous to completing his education, he taught school for several terms in the country, boarding around among the patrons.

He worked on his father's farm until 1848, when he started out for himself, following farming, together with buying and selling land. In the above year he began the study of law in the office of the late B. S. Prettyman in Pekin, and then entered the law department of Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky., from which he was graduated in 1851. After receiving his diploma, he located in Pekin for practice, but soon abandoned that profession to engage in the banking business, forming a partnership with G. H. Rupert and F.N. Gill, which lasted until the outbreak of the civil war, when hard times followed, causing him to close out his business in that line and engage in the real estate and insurance business, in which he engaged until a few months ago, when he retired from active life and went to Peoria to spend the remainder of his days in the Proctor home.

He was a very prominent factor in forwarding the best interests of the section and besides laying out three additions to the city of Pekin, has been president of the Peoria & Springfield Railway, manager of the Haines' Illinois Harvester works and was the oldest insurance man in this part of the State.

He was the first county superintendent of schools of Tazewell county, served as president of the Tazewell County Old Settlers' Association, postmaster for three years under Cleveland, supervisor of the township for some time and held many other positions of trust in the county and State.

His wife, to whom he was united in marriage in 1852, was Miss Anna E. Maus, daughter of the late Dr. W. S. Maus. Her death occurred in 1889. To them was born one son, James Haines, Jr., who survives.